Borough of Abergavenny

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Medical Officer

of

Health's Report

1960

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S. M. JAMES, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

ANNUAL REPORT

1960

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Rain and yet more rain!—such was the heraldic cry of the sixties. 1960 was the wettest year in living memory, and to mark its final passage came the floods. In December we experienced the great flood that deluged many parts of Monmouthshire. On Sunday, December 4th, Abergavenny, like many other towns and villages, was virtually cut off. Low-lying houses such as those in Mill Street, were steeped in chocolate-coloured water, fields became lakes, roads were impassable and many cars and lorries were temporarily abandoned. Early the following morning mopping-up operations began and the organised efforts of private individuals and public as well as voluntary services quickly restored order out of chaos. Many sections of the community were affected in one way or another, but friendliness and good neighbourliness was apparent everywhere. Happily, there was no loss of human life and no disease was attributed to this calamity. Recent experiments in West Germany seem to indicate a steep rise in deaths following a "muggy" period immediately preceding a rain belt, and an increase in the number of complaints from nervous headaches and migraine to epileptic attacks and strokes during a "cold front". It seems that excessive moisture and certain pressure changes have more effect on health than changes in temperature. However, judged by mortality statistics, most of the people in Abergavenny enjoyed very good health throughout 1960 despite the heavy rainfall and the comparative lack of sunshine. But in the absence of accurate morbidity statistics it is difficult to estimate the amount or nature of sickness actually experienced.

Let us not be too complacent even about our mortality statistics. It is true that the number of deaths in Abergavenny were fewer than in recent years, but take a closer look at these deaths. Then it becomes obvious that some 10 per cent. of these deaths were due to accidents, all of which were surely preventable. Better roads,

better maintained vehicles, extra care in driving may well have prevented the road accidents, while the simple use of the fireguard would most certainly have saved the old lady who died from burns. Twentyfive people died under the age of 60 years, and it appears that one-fifth of these need not have occured if only adequate preventive measures had been observed especially by the individual. We have seen in previous reports how the death-rate has fallen as a result of improved economic and social circumstances as well as recent advances in curative and preventive medicine. But many of the deaths that occurred in 1960, especially in the younger age groups, stress once again the role of the individual in the promotion and maintenance of health. In this respect, hope lies in continued health education. On the other hand, the causes of infant deaths still indicate the need for adequate ante-natal supervision directed specially to the control of toxæmia in the mother, and continued research into the causes of congenital abnormalities.

Another look at the year's mortality statistics show that 89 of the 114 deaths occurred after the sixtieth birthday, and indeed no less than 69 of these after the 70th birthday, 3 of which were nonagerians—once again a tribute to medicine as well as improved environmental and personal health services. Now that so many of us live to become septuagenarians and even octagenarians, it behoves each and every one of us to provide, as far as possible, for a healthy and happy old age. Some community measures are already in existence, e.g. old age pensions, supplementary allowances, meals on wheels, home helps and home nursing. Others, although in existence, need to be extended; especially geriatric beds in hospitals, county council homes for the aged, bungalows and ground-floor flats—in each of these listed examples the waiting lists are formidable. This Local Authority is well aware of the housing needs of its old-age pensioners and has already provided a few of them with suitable accommodation—but, unfortunately, demand very much exceeds the supply so far.

It is with pleasure that I report that I did not find it necessary to implement Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948-50, whereby the Medical Officer of Health is responsible, after thorough

enquiry and consideration, for certifying in writing to the Local Authority that it is necessary to remove any person suffering from grave chronic disease or who is aged, infirm or physically incapacitated and who is living in insanitary conditions, in the interest of this person or from preventing injury to the health of, and serious nuisance to, other persons.

The greater the number of old in the community the higher the figure of those with physical or mental deteriorations. A recent survey revealed that there were some 5,726, 000 sufferers from some severe form of rheumatism in Britain. It has also been estimated that 3,746,000 people over 65 years of age suffer from moderate or severe osteo-arthritis and the changes caused by this disease began in one person in 10 at the age of 24 years, thereafter the incidence steadily rising with age. There is no reason to believe that Abergavenny enjoys immunity from this crippling group of diseases. The total of registered blind in Great Britain rises annually. More than 80,000 of the present total of around 100,000 registered as blind are over the age of 60. In 1960, 38 persons were registered as blind and 7 as partially sighted in Abergavenny. We are well aware of the hearing loss that often occurs with advancing years and the frequency of incapacity which results from circulatory diseases in some form or other, and as yet there seems to be no sign of arrest in the upward trend of mental ill-health. Herein lies the challenge of the future—the challenge of degenerative diseases. The ageing process cannot be arrested but it is more than possible that its onset can be delayed and its rate of progress slowed. Health Clinics for the elderly may well provide some of the answers to the medical and social problems associated with age.

A further look at our mortality statistics show that infectious diseases in 1960 were conspicuous by their absence as a cause of death, but while the notifications remain incomplete we can only make a wild guess at their incidence. Preventive and curative measures have brought about a remarkable decline in both the morbidity and mortality of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and the possibility actually exists of eliminating it from our midst altogether. Almost everyone is aware that a death from Pulmonary Tuberculosis

is a rarity. Nevertheless, it is still a serious disease because of the relatively long period of incapacity which occurs during its cure. Also, it is still an infectious disease which a sufferer can pass on to others. Even if the disease cannot as yet be entirely prevented, it is of tremendous advantage if discovered in its early stages. Early detection is still the basis for rapidly successful treatment and mass radiography has played and continues to play a prominent part in the early diagnosis and control of this disease.

Diphtheria is another example of an infectious disease which may be down but not out. Some parents refuse or cannot be bothered to ensure adequate protection for their children although they are offered immunisation at infant welfare clinics, schools and the surgeries of general practitioners. We can but continue to preach to the complacent and neglectful. Without immunisation, not only Diphtheria but Whooping Cough, Small Pox and Poliomyelitis may be again as familiar as Cancer of the lung or Coronary Thrombosis. After the initial burst of enthusiasm only a few people between the ages of 27 and 40 years have been vaccinated against Poliomyelitis – it has been said that nobody much has died lately, so the danger is ignored.

The provision of houses for the aged has already been mentioned. In addition, Abergavenny Borough continues with its slum clearance programme. Fifteen houses were demolished last year in the Castle Ward area and some 42 houses were built by the Council as well as 13 others by private enterprise. In all, 744 new houses, 50 prefabricated houses and 58 flats have been provided by the Local Authority since the war. Unfortunately, a few of their occupants have not appreciated the benefits of rehousing. It is true that these problem families are very much in the minority, but they do exist and are a constant source of worry to all workers in the public health field. We can only hope that our efforts will prevent the children from inheriting the sins of the fathers.

VITAL STATISTICS

	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Area in Acres ..	2398	2398	2398	2398	2398	2398	2398	2398
Population (Est.)	9070	9140	8970	8910	8980	9020	9030	9080
Inhabited Houses (according to Rate Book) ...	2765	2796	2808	2937	2933	2922	3019	3091
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Rateable Value	60191	60673	61820	98744	93147	94194	102019	104348
Product of 1d. Rate ...	230	234	234	235	357	368	388	405

1960	*M.*	*F.*	*Total*
Live Births.			
Legitimate ...	77	60	137
Illegitimate ...	5	9	14
Total ...	82	69	151

Live Birth Rate

	Borough	*County*	*E. & W.*
per 1,000 population	16.63	17.29	17.1

Comparability Factor = 1.00

Adjusted Live Birth Rate 16.63 × 1.00 = 16.63

Still Births.

	M.	*F.*	*Total*
Legitimate ...	4	0	4
Illegitimate ...	0	1	1
Total ...	4	1	5

Still Birth Rate

	Borough	*County*	*E. & W.*
per 1,000 live and still births	32.06	27.2	19.7
per 1,000 population	0.55	0.48	

Deaths.

	M.	*F.*	*Total*
All causes ...	64	43	107

	Borough	*County*	*E. & W.*
Death Rate per per 1,000 population	11.79	13.2	11.5

Comparability Factor — 0.98

Adjusted Death Rate —11.79 × 0.98 = 11.6

	M.	F.	Total
Death from Cancer ...	12	7	19
do. do. Lung Cancer...	2	0	2

Deaths due to Pregnancy, Child Birth, Abortion — 0

Maternal Mortality Rate

	Borough	County
(Rate per 1,000 live and still births) ...	0	0

Infant Mortality.

Cause of Death	*Sex* M.	F.	*Age*
Asphyxia due to inattention at birth ...	0	1	Minutes
Prematurity (Toxæmia of mother) ...	1	0	14 hours
Meningitis, Spina Bifida	0	1	2 weeks

Total = 3 (1M. 2F.)

Infant Mortality Rate

	Borough	County	E. & W.
(Rate per 1,000 total live births) ...	19.87	25.5	22 0

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate = first 4 weeks.

(Rate per 1,000 live births) ...	19.87	17.6

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate

(Under 1 week) ...	13.2	15.2

Perinatal Mortality

(Still births & infant deaths under 1 week) per 1,000 total live and still births.	51.3	42.0

Causes of Death (1960)

Cause	Male	Female
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	0	0
Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach ...	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm of Lung and Bronchus ...	2	0
Malignant Neoplasm of Uterus ...	0	3
Malignant Neoplasm of Breast ...	0	0
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms ...	9	3
Leukæmia ...	0	0
Diabetes ...	0	0
Vascular Lesions of nervous system ...	6	5
Coronary Disease, Angina ...	18	6
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	1	0
Other Heart Disease ...	13	12
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	4	3
Influenza ...	0	0
Bronchitis ...	2	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	1	0
Ulcer of Stomach and/or Duodenum ...	0	1
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea ...	0	0
Nephritis ...	0	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	1	0
Congenital Malformations ...	0	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	4	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents ...	1	0
All other accidents ...	1	3
	64	43

Year.	*Population.*	*Live Births.*	*Deaths.*	*Birth Rate.*	*Death Rate.*
1931	8490 (Estimated)	137	119	16.10	14.01
	8608 (Census)				
1938	7925 (New Borough)	115	108	14.50	13.6
1939	7832 ,,	118	144	15.10	18.38
1940	8407 ,,	122	149	14.5	17.7
1941	8769 ,,	130	135	14.6	15.39

Year.	*Population.*		*Live Births.*	*Deaths.*	*Birth Rate.*	*Death Rate.*
1942	8468	(New Borough)	134	113	18.8	13.34
1943	8174	,,	127	122	15.56	14.68
1944	7931	,,	139	104	17.5	13.11
1945	8275	,,	141	120	17.0	14.5
1946	8439	,,	147	110	17.5	13.03
1947	8427	,,	152	115	18.0	13.64
1948	8532	,,	146	138	17.1	16.17
1949	8597	,,	134	94	15.6	10.9
1950	8534	,,	130	145	14.4	16.99
1951	8904	,,	161	157	18.1	17.63
1952	9058	,,	154	108	17.0	11.9
1953	9070	,,	140	93	15.4	10.26
1954	9140	,,	143	100	15.6	10.94
1955	8970	,,	128	106	14.3	11.8
1956	8910	,,	143	124	16.05	13.9
1957	8980	,,	131	112	14.89	12.49
1958	9020	,,	171	139	18.96	15.4
1959	9030	,,	163	126	18.05	13.95
1960	9080	,,	151	114	16.63	12.56

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Scarlet Fever Whooping Cough Measles Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis Infantile Paralysis Erysipelas Diphtheria Encephalitis Acute Primary Pneumonia Salmonella Typhimurium	During the year no cases were notified.
Dysentery ...	6 cases were notified.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Notified :	Pulmonary	M.1	F.3	Non-Pulmonary	M.0	F.0
Deaths :	do.	M.0	F.0	do.	M.0	F.0

Notifiable Infectious Diseases (other than Tuberculosis)

(Classified according to sex and age groups)

Disease	*Sex*	*Age 0-4*	*Age 5-9*	*Age 10-14*	*Age 15-24*	*Age 25 plus*	*Total*
Diphtheria	Male ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Female ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet	Male ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fever	Female ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Meningococceal	Male ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Infection	Female ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	Male ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Female ..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping	Male .	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cough	Female ...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Enteric Fever	Male ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Female ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Infantile	Male ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Paralysis	Female ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	Male ...	3	1	...	...	...	4
	Female ...	1	1	...	...	...	2
Erysipelas	Male ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Female ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Encephalitis	Male ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Female ...	...	...	...	...	..	...
Acute Primary	Male ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia	Female ...	...	...	...	.	...	...
Salmonella	Male ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Typhimurium	Female ...	...	...	...	...	...	...

Tuberculosis.

New Cases and Mortality during 1960.

Age	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	
1 - 4 years	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 - 9 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10 - 14 years	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
15 - 19 years	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
20 - 29 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
30 - 39 years	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
40 - 49 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
50 - 59 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
60 and over	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total	1	3	...	...	...	...	...	...

Vaccinations against Small Pox

Numbers Vaccinated

Age Groups	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Under 1 year	36	15	35	57	64	71	81	86
1 - 4 years	19	4	31	37	22	16	22	30
5 - 14 years	2	3	9	4	9	12	12	6
15 years plus	24	9	1	25	28	17	9	15
Totals	81	31	76	123	123	116	124	137

Immunisation against Diphtheria & Whooping Cough

Numbers Immunised

Age Groups	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Under 5 years	93	64	81	141	109	118 115	135 Diph. 105 WhC	109 Diph. 78 WhC
5 - 14 years	25	26	307	109	6	210 3	14 Diph. 1 WhC	260 Diph. 0 WhC
Totals	118	90	388	250	115	328 118	149 Diph. 106 WhC	369 Diph. 78 WhC

In addition to the above, 153 children were given "Booster" diphtheria prophylactic injections.

Yours faithfully,

S. M. JAMES, B.Sc., M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply for the Town continues to be derived from the Reservoir at Llwyndu which is fed by thirteen springs in the catchment area of the Sugar Loaf Mountain.

A supplementary supply is available from a deep well or bore-hole capable of producing 60,000 gallons per day.

A further supply is assured by agreement with the Newport County Borough Council for the extraction of as much water as may be necessary from their trunk main which passes near this Town.

The consumption of water remained roughly at 50.5 gallons per head per day for domestic consumption and 5 gallons per head per day for industrial purposes.

This was adequately provided for by the Council's own main supply, the Newport mains only being used to consume the agreed minimum quantity. The pump at the bore-hole was only being used to maintain engineering efficiency and the extreme emergency measure of passing water from the stream, the Afon Cibi, was not used.

Daily checks by the Reservoir Attendant using the chloroscope ensured that the level of free chlorine was maintained while two samples taken for bacteriological examination confirmed that the water was of satisfactory quality.

Five samples were taken from private supplies and were found to be slightly contaminated with organisms of non-faceal origin. In each case the owners were advised as to methods to prevent contamination, and these were carried out.

The Town's water supply is of excellent chemical quality and is not plumbo-solvent. Recent experiments carried out showed that there was some slight action on zinc and precautions were taken by amending the Byelaws to prevent the use of galvanised pipes for supplying water for consumption.

The number of dwelling houses in the Town is approximately 3,000 with a population of 9,080.

53 persons living in 18 dwellings above the Reservoir are supplied from private supplies.

38 persons living in 18 dwellings are supplied from the Town's main supply through stand pipes.

8,989 persons living in 2,967 houses are supplied with mains water directly to the house.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATH.

Facilities for swimming in the Town are provided by an open air swimming pool situated in the centre of the Town within the Bailey Park. It is 44 yards long and 40 feet wide with depths ranging from 2 feet 9 inches to 8 feet 6 inches.

Water is supplied from the Town's main supply and is purified by a pressure sand filter and break-point cholorinator. The system is set such that the water is changed every four hours.

Free chlorine is checked by daily examination with the chloroscope while three samples of water taken for bacteriological examination revealed that the water contained no bacterial organisms.

The pool is extensively used during the season particularly by young people and children who are instructed in the art of swimming either in their school curriculum or by request. The Baths Superintendent and his assistant are both qualified Instructors and Examiners and the results of their activities in this field were highly commendable.

There appears a need, however, for a supplementary facility to the pool. It is the providing of a 'nursery' pool where the very young can enjoy bathing in water of a depth to suit their needs. Such a pool would serve at least two purposes. Firstly - a place where the little children could paddle in water which, being connected to the supply of the main pool, could be guaranteed to be bacteriologically pure, secondly - by the depth of the pool being graded to some two feet at the deeper end would enable the children to begin their training as swimmers before graduating to the main pool without fear of being introduced without preliminary experience into such a large expanse of water. There being land available contiguous to the Swimming Pool and suitable for this purpose, the

Council are now considering the construction of such a pool. Plans drawn by the Borough Engineer have been examined and seem to fit the need Initial agreement has been reached.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

As was reported in the Annual Report for 1959, work on the new Sewage Disposal Works was commenced in April of that year.

In December of this year, following a slight set-back due to the excessively bad weather, the works were put into operation.

The works function on the activated Sludge principle and covers 4 acres. It is constructed to provide for a population of 1[illegible],300 with a Dry Weather Flow of 6[illegible]0,000 gallons per day, but provision has been made for eventually increasing the treatment capacicty by 50% should this ever be required.

The sewage, which is weak in character, is delivered to the works by gravitation from the Town of Abergavenny and by pumping from the adjoining village of Llanfoist, within the district of Abergavenny Rural District Council, at a rate of some 36,000 gallons per day, dry weather flow.

The maximum rate of flow to the works is 3,900,000 gallons per day, equivalent to 3 times the Dry Weather Flow.

The plant consists of the following units :—

1. Mechanically raked screen.
2. Grit Channels.
3. Stormwater Overflow.
4. Sedimentation Tanks.
5. Surface Aeration Tanks.
6. Final Digestion Tanks.
7. Stormwater Tanks.
8. Sludge Digestion Tanks.
9. Sludge Drying Beds.
10. Pumping Station.
11. Office and Messroom.

The object of the treatment is to convert the crude sewage into a clear, stable effluent which conforms with the normally accepted Royal Commission Standard, i.e. 5 days Biochemical Oxygen Demand not exceeding 20 parts per million, suspended solids not exceeding 30 parts per million.

The treatment of the sewage can be conveniently divided into three stages :—

(a) Removal of floating and suspended matter (mechanical treatment).
(b) Oxidation of dissolved impurities.
(c) Sludge treatment and disposal.

With a resident engineer appointed before the date of commencement of operations and necessary staff, the Council are now satisfied that the sewage produced by the Town can be effectively treated and that, for the first time for some years the effluent will be passed into the River Usk as an innocuous liquid.

SLUM CLEARANCE.

This year saw the virtual completion of the second Slum Clearance Scheme, viz.: the Castle Ward Area. It was anticipated in the Annual Report for 1959 that the re-housing of the families from this Ward would be completed early in 1961.

15 families were included and 10 were re-housed during the year. Were it not for the fact that the Council chose to re-house the families in houses peculiar to their various needs, the complete re-housing could have been accomplished during the year. However, the difficulties of finding such accommodation coupled with the Council's policy not to force people into houses that they did not wish to occupy have meant some delay. Suitable accommodation has now been earmarked and it is anticipated that re-housing will be completed within the first three months of next year.

During the year, 15 houses were demolished, displacing 10 families comprising 27 persons.

It might be considered appropriate at this point to remark on a general feature of the properties which have been demolished. Tudor Street and the streets of the Castle Ward contained some of the oldest buildings in the Town. Each property was examined by the Honorary Curator of the Town's Museum during demolition. Most of the buildings were found to date back to the 16th century, and evidence was found in several of wall decorations executed during this period. Samples of such mural decorations together with examples of construction materials were saved and have been transferred to the Museum where a number are now on exhibitation. Many of the interesting features could not, of necessity, be removed, but a comprehensive photographic record was taken which will serve in the the future to illustrate clearly the methods of construction peculiar to that period, shown in situ.

The next stage in these areas already dealt with will embrace the redevelopment of the area along the general principles which have been considered favourable by the Council. These envisaged rebuilding only on the North side of the area, the South side being developed as an open area to be laid out according to a detailed plan not yet decided upon. The County Council, as the Highway Authority for these streets have already planned the realignment of the roads within the general lay-out plan, and it is anticipated that work will commence on this in the first month of next year.

The remaining area included in the Council's five year plan will be that of Mill Street, also in the Castle Ward. As soon as the present area is completed, representation will be made to the Council. Preliminary inspections and the preparation of the necessary reports will be commenced early in next year. This area has been earmarked by the Development Plan of Monmouthshire County for light industry.

During the year, 42 dwellings were completed by the Council and 13 by Private enterprise.

The number of applicants on the Council's Points Scheme for the allocation of Houses stood at 264 at the end of the year.

The following table shows how many applications of any particular year (since 1951) have been dealt with either by allocation, deletion or voluntary withdrawal : –

Year	No. of Applications during that Year	No. of Applications dealt with	No. of Applications still outstanding
1946	—	—	5
1947	—	—	—
1948	—	—	4
1949	—	—	4
1950	—	—	2
1951	183	176	7
1952	160	144	6
1953	119	112	7
1954	122	112	10
1955	118	101	17
1956	113	90	23
1957	97	34	43
1958	73	51	32
1959	104	44	60
1960	56	12	44
TOTALS :	1175	876	264

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

(a)	Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for Housing Defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts	19
(b)	Number of Inspections made for that purpose ...	52
2. (a)	Number of Dwellings (included under Sub-heading (1) above which are inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925) ...	138
(b)	Inspections made for that purpose ...	138
(c)	Number of Dwellings found to be in a stage so dangerous to health as to be unfit for human habitation (*see* Slum Clearance) ...	Nil
(d)	Number of Dwellings (exclusive to those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	21
	Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of Informal Notice action by the Local Authority or their officers	15

Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1957.

1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
2.	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices –	
	(a) By Owners	Nil
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owner ...	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

1.	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	9
2.	Number of dwellings in respect of which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—	
	(a) By Owners	6
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owner ...	Nil

(c) Proceedings under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957.

1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 1

2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit ... ... Nil

(d) Proceedings under Section 17 & 23 of the Housing Act, 1957.

1. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil

2. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... Nil

(b) Undertaking accepted that the house will not be used for human habitation ... Nil

(e) Closing Order is made under Section 17 (1) ... Nil

Rents Act, 1957.

Of proceedings taken in 1960, one Certificate of Disrepair was cancelled during the year.

Three applications for Certificate of Disrepair were received, one Certificate was granted, and undertakings were accepted in two cases (one of which was completed during the year).

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

Routine visits were made to food premises throughout the year. In no instances was it found necessary to recommend Statutory Action in the way of any contravention. On each visit the Inspectors were received with courtesy and both Managers and Owners were most co-operative in carrying out the requirements of the Regulations.

In some instances large scale reconstruction work has been carried out, two shops being converted to modern self-service stores.

Inspections continued to be carried out in the Markets while business is being carried on and here again the co-operation of the traders is most appreciated.

Foodstuffs Condemned, 1960.

Canned Foods.

Meat ...	178 tins	Fruits ...	139 tins
Fish ...	28 tins	Milk ...	21 tins
Vegetables ...	89 tins	Cream ...	2 tins
Soup ...	11 tins		

Miscellaneous Foods.

Prunes ...	53 pkts.	Coffee ...	1 bottle
Bilberries ...	2 jars	Semolina ...	2 tins
Marmalade ..	2 jars	Rice ...	17 tins
Gravy Browning	1 bottle	Pies ...	51
Pickle ...	1 jar	Ice Cream ...	4 bars
Syrup ...	1 tin		

Other Foodstuffs.

Wet Fish ...	11¾ lbs.	Luncheon ...	23 lbs.
Poultry ...	1 carcase	Sausage ...	49 lbs.
Cooked Ham	35½ lbs.		

Meat from Outside Sources Condemned at Retailers Premises.

Beef ...	189 lbs.	Lamb ...	38 lbs.
Pork ...	18 lbs.	Livers ...	2

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-1954.

There are three producer-retailers in the Borough and licenced by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for the production of Tuberculin Tested Milk.

Licences granted by the Borough Council are 8 authorising the sale of "Tuberculin Tested" (Raw) Milk, 6 authorising the use of the designation "Pasteurised" and 1 for the designation "Sterilized."

As from the 1st October, 1960, the Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960, became operative to be enforced by the Food and Drugs Authority. In the case of this Authority the County Council becomes responsible for the licensing of all Milk Dealers, such licences being valid for five years, being renewable at subsequent quinquennial intervals. Information regarding milk purveyors in the area of this Authority has been passed to the appropriate Authority.

Sampling.

During the year 16 samples were submitted for examination. 9 samples were of Tuberculin Test (Raw) Milk, and 7 of Pasteurised.

The Public Health Laboratory reported all samples to be of satisfactory standard.

The Tuberculin Tested Milks were also subjected to animal inocculation tests which yielded negative results to Tuberculosis.

There is one Pasteurising and Bottling Establishment in the Borough, viz., F. Franklyn, Usk Vale Dairy. These premises are, of course, under the supervision of the County Council.

No Milk Diseases were reported during the year, and the co-operation of the retailers in respect of matters drawn to their attention was such that no legal action was necessary.

Ice-Cream.

Of the 35 premises registered with this Authority under the Food and Drugs Act, 1958, only 2 are used for the manufacture of Ice-Cream.

One uses the Heat Treatment, the other adopting the cold mix method.

All the manufacturers comply with the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.

In the case of the other retailers, the practise is to purchase wrapped ice-cream from outside firms who mass-produce the product and who provide refrigerated conservers for the use of the retailers.

6 samples of ice-cream were taken during the year and submitted for Bacteriological Examination and as a result of such examinations 5 samples were Grade 1, whilst 1 sample was in category 3.

Rodent Control.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Acts, 1949

The work of rodent control has continued to be carried out in a satisfactory manner and details are given below.

Destruction of Rats in Sewers.

First Annual Maintenance Treatment, 13th June to 25th June, 1960.

Total number of manholes in foul and connected system ...	286
Number baited	163
Number showing takes of bait	20

Second Annual Treatment, 5th November to 16th November, 1960.

Total number of manholes in foul and connected system	291
Total baited	156
Number showing takes of bait	7

The method adopted was the placing of bait on the 'benching' in manholes or on trays fitted into the brickwork and provided with thick ropes to allow rodents to climb on the trays, the poisoned bait being deposited wherever a pre-bait take had been recorded. The results were satisfactory and a lessening of surface infestation is noted after each treatment.

These routine treatments were followed by treatments at the Sewage Disposal Works and Refuse Tips, such treatment being in addition to those regularly carried out.

I am pleased to report that rat infestation in the Town has been reduced to almost a negligible number, but in order to keep this so, the work must be continued with enthusiasm and all areas kept under constant surveillance.

Surface Infestations.

Routine surveys are being maintained and all complaints are immediately investigated.

The following is a summary of the work carried out:

Total number of properties in this area – Dwelling houses ...	3008
All other (including business premises)	685

Inspections :

Number of Local Authority properties inspected ...	13
Number business properties inspected	124
Number of private dwellings	215
Number of agricultural properties inspected	3
Total inspections including re-inspections	1350
Total number found to be infested :	
By Rats	40
By Mice	44
Total number of treatments carried out by Rodent Operator...	84
Number of re-treatments	8

Factories Act, 1937 and 1957.

The following represents the distribution of trades in the Borough :

	Number of Factories	Mechanical Power used	With Power not used
Agricultural Machinery Repairs ...	2	2	0
Bakehouses ...	5	5	0
Bacon Curing ...	1	1	0
Blacksmith ...	2	1	1
Boot and Shoe Repairs ...	5	5	0
Cellulose Spraying ...	8	8	0
Cement Products ...	1	1	0
Egg Grading ...	3	3	0
Electrical Repair (including Radio) ...	7	1	6
Firewood	2	2	0
Florist (Wreaths) ...	3	0	3
Gas Undertaking ...	1	1	0
Ice-Cream ...	2	2	0
Ironworker and Engineers ...	3	3	0
Leather Products ...	1	1	1
Meat Small Goods ...	9	9	0
Milk Pasteurisation and Boiling ...	1	1	1
Mineral Water ...	1	1	0
Monumental Masonry ...	2	2	0
Motor Repairs ...	9	8	1
Printing ...	2	2	0
Soft Toy Manufacturing ...	1	1	0
Sugar Confectionery ...	1	1	0
Tailoring and Dressmaking ...	2	0	2
Upholstery and French Polishing ...	1	1	0
Welding (Acetylene and Electric) ...	2	2	0
Wool Staplers ...	2	0	2

OUTWORKERS.

Eleven outworkers are listed, four are concerned with the altering and repairing of wearing apparel, seven with Soft Toy manufacture.

51 inspections were carried out, and the following is a statement of cases from which defects were found.

Number of Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Inspector	Prosecutions
Want of Cleanliness ...	1	1	0	0	0
Overcrowding ...	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable Temperature ...	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate Ventilation ...	0	0	0	0	0
Ineffective Floor and Drainage. ...	0	0	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences—					
(a) Insufficient ...	1	0	0	1	0
(b) Unsuitable or Defective ...	2	2	0	2	0
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	0	0	0	0	0
Escape in case of fire –					
(a) No certificate	0	0	0	0	0
(b) Inadequate ...	0	2	0	0	0

During the year the new provisions of the Factories Act, 1959, came into operation. All the Office files relating to Means of Escape in Case of Fire have now been transferred to the Fire Prevention Department of the County's Fire Service.

Meat Inspections

On Thursday, September 29th, 1960, a Conference of people interested in the Meat Trade was held in accordance with Section 3 of the Slaughterhouse Act, 1958.

The resolution of that Conference was that the facilities provided in the Town were satisfactory and that no further Slaughterhouse was required.

In the meantime the work of reconstruction of the Slaughterhouse was nearing completion after a series of unfortunate delays. The date of operation was set at January 1st, 1961, but was subsequently authorised to be deferred until March 1st, 1961.

However, it was possible to operate the Slaughterhouse almost completely in its reconstructed form by the end of the year.

It has been the Council's intention in reconstruction to provide a Slaughterhouse which would comply with the three main objects of the 1958 Act, viz., hygiene conditions, humane treatment of animals and safe working conditions for those operators engaged in Slaughterhouse work. I am of the opinion that these requirements have been met and that with an enthusiastic management this Slaughterhouse can now be operated without any contravention of the Act.

Six persons were licenced as Slaughtermen under Section 3 of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958.

All carcases produced at the Slaughterhouse were subject to examination by the Council's Meat Inspector and the following table provides details of this work.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excl. Cows	Cows	C'lves	Sheep and L'mbs	Pigs	H'rses
Number killed (if known) ...	843	138	80	5205	2090	—
Number inspected ...	843	138	80	5205	2090	—
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci—						
Whole carcases condemned ...	3	4	6	18	2	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	160	72	9	211	24	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. and Cysticerci ...	19.3	55.1	18.8	4.4	1.3	—
Tuberculosis only—						
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	1	—	—	74	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	—	0.7	—	—	3.5	—
Cysticercus—						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—				
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	—	—				
Generalised and totally condemned ...	—	—				

Weight of meat and offal condemned as a result of Tubercular infection.

Carcase meat	...	971 lbs.
Offal	...	527 lbs.

Weight of meat and offal condemned as a result of disease and conditions other than Tuberculosis.

Carcase meat	...	4315 lbs.
Offal	...	4622 lbs.

Total weight of meat and offal condemned ... 10435 lbs.

Rainfall, 1960

Rain Gauge ... Diameter of Funnel 5 inches.
Height of Top { Above Ground 1 foot. / Above Sea Level 215 feet.
Situation : Bailey Park.

Month		*Total Depth inches*
January	...	5.0
February	...	5.25
March	...	4.25
April	...	4.0
May	...	1.75
June	...	1.75
July	...	2.75
August	...	5.75
September	...	4.5
October	...	10.75
November	...	9.75
December	...	9.5
TOTAL	...	65.00

I am, Sir and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
ROGER J. HOWELLS,
Public Heath Inspector.